

Appl. No.: 10/687,146
Amdt. dated 02/13/2006
Reply to Official Action of January 12, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application currently includes pending Claims 1-28 under consideration. Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 8-13 are allowed, and that Claims 2, 20 and 23 are allowable. However, final Official Action continues to reject Claims 1, 3-7, 14-19, 21, 22 and 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,677,852 to Landt, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,305,008 to Turner et al.

In order to advance the present application to issuance in the most expeditious fashion, Applicants have rewritten allowable Claims 2, 20 and 23 into independent form, including all the recitations of any intervening claims. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that allowable Claims 2, 20 and 23 are in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, Applicants have cancelled independent Claims 1, 14 and 22 without prejudice to subsequent presentation in a continuation application. Also, Applicants have amended various ones of dependent Claims 3-7, 15-19, 21 and 24-28 to depend from respective ones of allowable, and now independent, Claims 2, 20 and 23. Further, Applicants have amended allowed independent Claim 8 to correct an inadvertent grammatical error. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments do not raise any new issues and do not introduce any new matter, and should therefore be considered and entered by the Examiner.

As all of original and amended dependent Claims 3-7, 15-19, 21 and 24-28 directly or indirectly depend from respective ones of allowed or allowable independent Claims 2, 20 and 23, Applicants respectfully submit that amended and original dependent Claims 3-7, 15-19, 21 and 24-28 are allowable for at least the same reasons as allowable independent Claims 2, 20 and 23. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claims 1, 3-7, 14-19, 21, 22 and 24-28 as being unpatentable over Landt in view of Turner overcome.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amended and cancelled claims, and the remarks presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Fax No. (571) 273- 8300 on the date shown below.

Sarah B. Simmons

Date